

(c) whether the present set up for research and reference is centralised or any proposal to have regional Research and Reference Division in Delhi; and

(d) the comparative statement of enhancement of outlay for the electronic media and other media units, if any?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) Strengthening of the non-electronic media is an ongoing process. This is achieved by means of monitoring, feedback, review and modernisation of the field units of the Ministry.

(b) The units of the Directorate of Field Publicity interact with local panchayats and work with them. Measures have been taken to modernise the audio-visual equipment and increase the reach of the field functionaries. New units have also been opened in remote areas during the 8th Five Year Plan period.

(c) Research, Reference and Training Division is a centralised set-up located in Delhi. There is no proposal to have regional Research, Reference and Training Division in Delhi.

(d) Statement is enclosed.

STATEMENT

Ministry of information and Broadcasting

Outlay for the Electronic Media and Non Electronic Media Units for the year 1995-96 and 1996-97

(Figures in Lakhs)

S.No.	Sector	Approved Outlay (1995-96)	Proposed Outlay (1996-97)	Percentage increase over 1995-96
1.	Electronic Sector (All India Radio/ Doordarshan)	44878.00	48038.00	7.0
2.	Non-Electronic Sector (other Media Units) (figures include internal resources)	4672.00	5262.00	12.6

Functioning of Telephone Exchanges in Coochbehar

2511. SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received any complaints in respect of improper functioning of Dinhat telephone exchange in district Coochbehar (West Bengal) during the last three years and till date; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken to improve the situation?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. A complaint from Shri Amar Roy Pradhan, M.P. dated 12.9.95 was received by the Govt. regarding improper functioning of Dinhat telephone exchange in Coochbehar district.

In the month of June'95 the transmission equipment was damaged due to heavy lighting, interrupting the services. Normalcy was restored on 23.6.95 necessary spare equipments have been procured to avoid such prolonged interruptions.

[Translation]

Packing of Wheat and Rice

2512. JUSTICE GUMAN MAL LODHA : Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Food Corporation of India has changed the packing of wheat and rice;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the quantity of foodgrains likely to be supplied in changed packing during 1996-97;

(d) whether expenditure on new packing is more in comparison to the old packing; and

(e) if so, the details of extra expenditure likely to be incurred by the FCI during 1996-97?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV) : (a) and (b). It has been decided to switch over to 50 Kg. packaging of foodgrains (wheat and rice) in a phased manner spread over a period of five years starting from Kharif 1994-95 seasons.

(c) Excluding the quantities procured by State Govt. agencies, 6.59 lakh MTs of wheat has been packed in 50 Kg. packaging in rabi 1996-97 out of total procurement of 21.5 lakh MTs by the Corporation. Procurement of paddy/rice in 1996-97 is yet to commence.

(d) and (e). Excluding the additional cost to be incurred in stitching, handling and transportation, cost of jute gunnies per quintal is likely to go up by about 24% when foodgrains are packed in 50 Kg. Bags as against 95 Kg. bags at present.

[English]

Expansion of Telecom System in Maharashtra

2513. SHRI SANDIPAN THORAT : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the funds allocated/utilised for development.

expansion and upgradation of telecommunication system in rural/urban areas of Maharashtra during the last three years, district-wise;

(b) whether the development of telecommunication in rural areas has been given the top priority and the implementation was tardy and sluggish due to non-availability of funds and equipments;

(c) if so, the steps proposed to be taken to ensure that projects in hand for rural areas are completed without further delay in Maharashtra in general and Sholapur district in particular; and

(d) the details of projects which are lagging behind the schedule in implementation in the State and particularly in Sholapur district?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) to (d). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[Translation]

Air Services

2514. SHRI KACHARU BHAU RAUT : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of Maharashtra has demanded expansion of air services in the state;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) to (c). Yes, Sir. A request has been received from Government of Maharashtra for increasing services to Aurangabad. Due to capacity and crew constraints, Indian Airlines is, at present, not in a position to increase the services to Aurangabad.

[English]

Norms/Guidelines

2515. SHRI K. PRADHANI : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether any norms, guidelines or regulation have been laid down by the Government in respect of on board entertainment in Public and private Airlines; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) and (b). No guidelines have been laid down by the Government except that alcoholic drinks are not permitted to be served or consumed on board the aircraft on domestic sectors in India.

Child Labour

2516. SHRI PINAKI MISRA :

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA :

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA :

SHRI RAM NAIK :

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether the International Labour Organisation has recently castigated the developing countries including India for their sluggish enforcement of anti-child labour legislations;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the percentage of children under 15 who are engaged in child labour in India;

(d) whether the implementation of anti-child labour measures has been unsatisfactory; and

(e) if so, the steps taken to remedy the situation?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) and (b). No, Sir. In June, 1996, the International Labour Conference and the Informal Tripartite Meeting at the Ministerial level organised by the ILO discussed the subject of child labour. It was observed that developing countries are awakening to the serious social, economic and development implication of child labour. The Resolution adopted by the Conference, calls upon Governments, employers' and workers' organisations to, inter alia, enact and give full effect to national legislation that prohibits the exploitation of children at work.

(c) to (e). According to the 1981 census, the total number of working children (in the age group 0-14 years) was 13.6 million. These were 4.26% of the total population of children (0-14 years) in the country.

A major programme to eliminate child labour in hazardous occupations by 2002 A.D. has been launched. National Child Labour Projects are being implemented in Child labour endemic areas wherein non-formal education, vocational training, supplementary nutrition, health care and stipend, etc. are provided. A massive awareness generation campaign has also been launched to sensitise people against the practice of child labour. The root cause of child labour being poverty and under-development, total elimination of child labour can be achieved with progressive improvement in poverty situation through development in economic and social sectors.

Aluminium Plant, Orissa

2517. DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI : Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state :

(a) the number of families displaced due to the establishment of Alumina and Aluminium plant at Damanjodi and Angul by NALCO in Orissa;